

**Meeting Date: May 16-18, 2007**

**Agenda Item No. 11**

**Agenda Item: Pheasant Stocking Budget on WMAs**    **Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Prepared by:** Don Kemner

**Background:**

- Pheasants stocking increased in 2000 due to legislative direction.
- Pheasants are currently stocked on 9 WMAs during hunting season.
- 1 in 4 pheasant hunters use WMAs to hunt.
- Youth pheasant season provides opportunity to mentor new hunters.
- Cost of birds increased beyond funds generated by sale of WMA permits.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

- Provide opportunities specific to the needs of beginners, youth, people with disabilities and families is a strategy of Department's Compass.
- Use artificial stocking where appropriate and cost effective is a strategy of Department's Compass.
- Support mentoring programs for new hunters is a strategy of Department's Compass.
- Assess participation, demand, and satisfaction with hunting opportunities. Adjust management to achieve objectives is strategy of Department's Compass.

**Public Involvement Process:**

- Annual survey information gathered by a random sample of WMA pheasant permit buyers.
- Pheasant vendors selected by state competitive bid process.

**Justification:**

- The price per bird increased 32-69 percent compared to price per bird in 2006. Prices varied dependent upon the delivery distance to the WMAs.
- Pheasant hunting activities and cost per bird in the bag varies greatly between WMAs.
- Contract may be modified or re-bid next year

**Action Requested:**

No action required

**Staff Recommendations:**

Continue to stock pheasants at 9 WMAs for one more year. Gather public input about reducing the stocking rate or generating more revenue to finance the increasing operational costs.